

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed November 25, 2003, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration. In this Amendment a new claim, claim 21, is added so that claims 1-10 and 21 are now pending.

This patent application claims priority from Japanese Patent Application 2000-097250 filed March 31, 2000. The priority document was filed with the patent application but the Examiner has not acknowledged receipt of the priority document. It is particularly ironic that in this lengthy prosecution, especially after the Response filed September 23, 2003 which included an English language translation of the priority document, that receipt of the priority document has not been acknowledged. It is respectfully requested that in the next communication the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the priority document for this patent application.

The remarks portion of the Office Action made reference to claims 11-20. Those claims were cancelled in the previous Response so the comments regarding election or restriction are inappropriate and not responded to.

In this Amendment, claim 1 is amended by the addition of a step at the end of the claim. According to the added step, a wiring layer is formed on the cured thin film that remains when the uncured part of that film is removed. This step is illustrated, for example, with regard to step ST11 in Figure 4 of the patent application and the wiring pattern 20c. The formation of this wiring is described at page 19, lines 17-21 of the patent application, particularly the sentence appearing in the latter two lines. The same step appears in step 18, ST18 of Figure 4, with respect to the wiring layer 20d. This step is described in the patent application at page 21 lines, 2-4. Similar disclosure appears with regard to steps ST11 and ST18 of Figure 5 at pages 27 and 28 of the patent application.

New claim 21 is supported by the application as filed, for example at page 9, lines 16-22.

Claims 1 and 3, claim 1 being a generic claim, were rejected as unpatentable over Ishibashi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,858,620, hereinafter Ishibashi) in view of Shinogi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,479,900, hereinafter Shinogi), and further in view of Endo et al. (U.S. Patent 5,777,027, hereinafter Endo), and Tsukada et al. (U.S. Patent 6,378,201, hereinafter Tsukada). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is apparent from the comments concerning this rejection that appear at the beginning of page 3 of the Office Action, that Endo is cited only with respect to claim 3.

If the rejection of claim 1 is erroneous, then the disclosure of Endo cannot establish the propriety of the rejection of the sole pending and examined independent claim.

Tsukada was cited as disclosing "providing a photosensitive resin (Abstract)". Ishibashi employs photosensitive resins, for example a first photoresist 1. Therefore, it is not apparent why Tsukada was cited or what it stands for that is different from Ishibashi. If there is some special purpose of citing Tsukada, Applicants respectfully request an explanation of the reason for reliance upon Tsukada since they have been unable to determine the purpose of the citation. Accordingly, there is no further comment on Tsukada.

None of the publications relied upon in rejecting claim 1 describes forming wiring patterns on the cured thin film that remains in place according to the description of the patent application. Thus, no combination of the references can establish *prima facie* obviousness with respect to amended claim 1.

Because at least one element of amended claim 1 is missing from the references supplied in rejecting that claim, *prima facie* obviousness has not been established and the rejection of that claim, as well as claim 3, should be withdrawn.

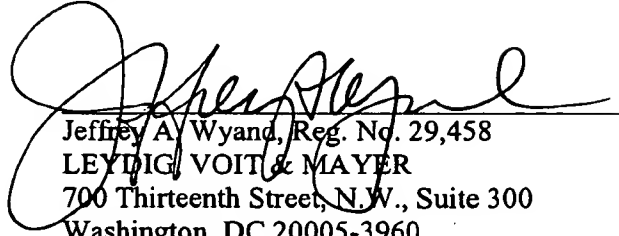
Claims 2 and 6 were rejected on the same basis as the rejection of claims 1 and 3 and further in view of Rokugawa (U.S. Patent 6,434,819). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Rokugawa was cited only with respect to disclosing an epoxy resin that can be cured by heating or irradiation with a laser beam. Assuming the accuracy of this proposition, Rokugawa still does not supply the elements of the final two steps of claim 1, which are not present in the other references applied in rejecting the examined claims. It follows that *prima facie* obviousness has not been established with respect to any examined claim. Therefore, all examined claims, namely claims 1-3 and 6, should now be allowed. In addition, the claims presently withdrawn from prosecution, namely claims 4, 5, and 7-10, should be rejoined to the prosecution and allowed as depending from an allowable claim. Likewise, newly added claim 21 should be allowed as depending from an allowable claim.

In re Appln. of Toyoshima et al.
Application No. 09/738,855

Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: March 15, 2004
JAW: yes